

He hopes to reinvigorate a successful program of a few years ago in which senior citizens were able to get low cost smoke detectors through the fire department.

Chief Brunelle has not yet negotiated a final contact with the Board of Fire Commissioners, but is expected to earn about \$76,000 a year.

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Thomas, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting a treaty, a withdrawal and sundry nominations which were referred to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following report of committees was submitted:

By Mr. MCCAIN, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 1415: A bill to reform and restructure the processes by which tobacco products are manufactured, marketed, and distributed, to prevent the use of tobacco products by minors, to redress the adverse health effects of tobacco use, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 105-180).

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second time by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:Q

By Mr. ASHCROFT:

S. 2023. A bill to provide increased penalties for drug offenses involving minors; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

S. 2024. A bill to increase the penalties for trafficking in methamphetamine in order to equalize those penalties with the penalties for trafficking in crack cocaine; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. COVERDELL (for himself and Mr. ABRAHAM):

S. 2025. A bill to promote the safety of food, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. DEWINE (for himself and Mr. HUTCHINSON):

S. 2026. A bill to require the Commissioner of Food and Drugs to conduct assessments and take other actions relating to the transition from use of chlorofluorocarbons in metered-dose inhalers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

By Mr. BRYAN (for himself and Mr. REID):

S. 2027. A bill to clarify the fair tax treatment of meals provided hotel and restaurant employees in non-discriminatory employee cafeterias; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. ASHCROFT:

S. 2028. A bill to amend the National Narcotics Leadership Act of 1988 to extend the

authorization for the Office of National Drug Control Policy until September 30, 2000, to expand the responsibilities and powers of the Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. ASHCROFT:

S. 2023. A bill to provide increased penalties for drug offenses involving minors; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

THE PROTECT OUR CHILDREN ACT OF 1998

S. 2024. A bill to increase the penalties for trafficking in methamphetamine in order to equalize those penalties with the penalties for trafficking in crack cocaine; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

THE METHAMPHETAMINE TRAFFICKING PENALTY ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 1998

Mr. ASHCROFT. Mr. President, today I am introducing three bills: No. 1, The Protect Our Children Act. This legislation substantially increases the penalties on adults who distribute drugs to minors, who sell drugs in or near schools, and who use minors to distribute drugs.

Each of these crimes currently carries a 1-year mandatory minimum sentence. My legislation would raise the mandatory term for each of these crimes to 3 years.

The legislation also makes it a crime for an adult to use a minor to commit a violent crime. Adults found guilty of using a minor would be subject to two times the maximum imprisonment and two times the maximum fine for the violent crime itself. We need to make it especially costly for adults who decide to use minors to commit crimes, because they think they can avoid the penalty themselves and because they believe that the minor might not have a substantial liability for punishment.

The second bill which I am introducing is the Methamphetamine Trafficking Penalty Enhancement Act. Meth production and trafficking are enormous problems across America, particularly in my home State of Missouri. The Methamphetamine Trafficking Penalty Enhancement Act equalizes penalties for crack cocaine and meth trafficking by setting a 5-year mandatory term for 5 grams of methamphetamine and a 10-year mandatory sentence for 50 grams.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the texts of the bills be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the bills were ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 2023

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Protect Our Children Act of 1998".

SEC. 2. INCREASED PENALTIES FOR DISTRIBUTING DRUGS TO MINORS.

Section 418 of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 859) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking "one year" and inserting "3 years"; and

(2) in subsection (b), by striking "one year" and inserting "5 years".

SEC. 3. INCREASED PENALTY FOR DRUG TRAFFICKING IN OR NEAR A SCHOOL OR OTHER PROTECTED LOCATION.

Section 419 of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 860) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking "one year" and inserting "3 years"; and

(2) in subsection (b), by striking "three years" each place that term appears and inserting "5 years".

SEC. 4. INCREASED PENALTIES FOR USING MINORS TO DISTRIBUTE DRUGS.

Section 420 of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 861) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b), by striking "one year" and inserting "3 years"; and

(2) in subsection (c), by striking "one year" and inserting "5 years".

SEC. 5. USE OF MINORS IN CRIMES OF VIOLENCE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 1 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

"§25. Use of minors in crimes of violence

"(a) PENALTIES.—Except as otherwise provided by law, whoever, being not less than 18 years of age, knowingly and intentionally uses a minor to commit a crime of violence, or to assist in avoiding detection or apprehension for a crime of violence, shall—

"(1) be subject to 2 times the maximum imprisonment and 2 times the maximum fine for the crime of violence; and

"(2) for second or subsequent convictions under this subsection, be subject to 3 times the maximum imprisonment and 3 times the maximum fine otherwise provided for the crime of violence in which the minor is used.

"(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

"(1) CRIME OF VIOLENCE.—The term 'crime of violence' has the same meaning as in section 16.

"(2) MINOR.—The term 'minor' means a person who is less than 18 years of age.

"(3) USES.—The term 'uses' means employs, hires, persuades, induces, entices, or coerces."

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The analysis for chapter 1 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

"25. Use of minors in crimes of violence."

S. 2024

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Methamphetamine Trafficking Penalty Enhancement Act of 1998".

SEC. 2. METHAMPHETAMINE PENALTY INCREASES.

(a) CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES ACT.—Section 401(b)(1) of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 841(b)(1)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A)(viii)—

(A) by striking "100 grams" and inserting "50 grams"; and

(B) by striking "1 kilogram" and inserting "500 grams"; and

(2) in subparagraph (B)(viii)—

(A) by striking "10 grams" and inserting "5 grams"; and

(B) by striking "100 grams" and inserting "50 grams".

(b) CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES IMPORT AND EXPORT ACT.—Section 1010(b) of the Controlled Substances Import and Export Act (21 U.S.C. 960(b)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)(H)—

(A) by striking "100 grams" and inserting "50 grams"; and